

## The Trial in Moscow

Compared with past shows of the same kind—notably the 1950 U-2 anti-American extravaganza—the Soviet Union's latest spy trial is pitched in a low key. But the Kremlin-run press, radio and television are nonetheless publicizing it in a way well designed to make the average Russian feel very leery about consorting with Westerners or embracing their ideas in such fields as art, literature and the dance.

The two on trial are Greville Wynne, British businessman, and Oleg Penkovsky, a former official of the Soviet Committee for Co-ordination of Scientific Research. Both are accused of having conspired to transmit state secrets to British and American intelligence agencies, and several of our lower-echelon and lesser people have been named in the indictment. Mr. Wynne has pleaded guilty, but with reservations. Mr. Penkovsky, on the other hand, has confessed his sins without any qualifications whatever.

Mr. Wynne, as a foreigner charged with espionage, and Mr. Penkovsky, as a Russian charged with high treason, face the possibility of being sentenced to death. As far as the Britisher is concerned, such a judgment is deemed unlikely. In Mr. Penkovsky's case, however, even though the secrets he is said to have handed out appear to have been not too sensational, the Soviet court may well impose the maximum penalty for no other reason than to drive home the lesson that Soviet citizens should keep a wide space, socially, intellectually and otherwise, between themselves and people from the decadent West.

It is noteworthy, in any case, that the Soviet press has cracked down hard on Mr. Penkovsky not so much for his alleged espionage role as for his being a "money-hungry traitor who loved to dance the Charleston and the 'A.T.'" In Pravda's somewhat ridiculous words, "He studied not only the Morse code, but also Western dances. . . . He closed his eyes and could imagine himself in the intimate darkness of a night club in New York and London." Equally odd, he could imagine himself participating in the art and literature of the West. "He studied the works of Shakespeare, Tolstoy, and other great Russian writers, and he was very fond of them."

STATINTL